Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles

IAC – Online Annual Report 2020

[Printed version]

IAC Annual Report General Instructions

Annex IV of the Convention text states that each Contracting Party shall submit an Annual Report each year.

To complete this Annual Report, Focal Points should consult with appropriate stakeholders involved in sea turtle issues. If you have any questions regarding this Annual Report, please contact the Secretariat Pro Tempore at secretario@iacseaturtle.org

The submission deadline for this Annual Report is June 30th, 2020.

Part I – General Information

1) Focal Point

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1.3 Submission Date
July 2, 2020

2) Agency or Institution responsible for preparing this report

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3.1 Others who participated in the preparation of this report

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Part II – Policy and Management / Resolutions

1) General description of activities

General description of activities carried out for the protection and conservation of sea turtles In accordance with Articles IX and XVIII of the text of the Convention, each Party shall establish monitoring programs, policies and plans for implementation at a national level for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitat. The Party shall report on the action plans, management plan or other types of instruments.

Please select the options that best apply for your country and provide the link to the corresponding document if available online. If it is in progress add the date is expected to be finalized in the corresponding section.

1.1 The country has a national strategy/plan for the conservation of sea turtles in accordance with Article XVIII.

Please upload or attach links to the corresponding documents using the blue box icons beneath each question
Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ In Progress

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

Endangered Species Act - The Endangered Species Act (Act) is the implementing legislation for the IAC. Under this Act, we carry out programs for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats.
Endangered Species Act - Sea Turtle Protection

Species Management Plan

1.1.1 The country has a **specific strategy/plan** for the conservation of

Please upload or attach the link to the corresponding document using icons below.

☑ Lepidochelys olivacea
☑ Lepidochelys kempii
☑ Dermochelys coriacea
☑ Eretmochelys imbricata
☑ Caretta caretta
☑ Chelonia mydas

You have attached the following documents to this answer. East_Pacific_Green_turtle_Recovery_Plan.pdf - East Pacific Green turtle Recovery Plan kempsridley_revision2_Recovery_Plan.pdf - Bi-National Recovery Plan for the Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle
NW_Atlantic_Loggerhead_Recovery_Plan.pdf - Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Recovery_Plan_for_leatherbacks___in_the_US_Caribbean__Atlantic__and_GOM.pdf - Recovery Plan for the Northwest Atlantic Population of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle
Recovery_Plan_for_the_Hawksbill_Turtle_in_the_US_Caribbean_____Atlantic__and_GOM.pdf - Recovery Plan for the Hawksbill Turtle in the US Caribbean, Atlantic, and GOM

Recovery_Plan_for_the_US_Pacific_Leatherback_Populations.pdf - Recovery Plan for the US Pacific Leatherback Population
Recovery_Plan_for_the_US_Pacific_Populations_of_the_Hawksbill_Turtle.pdf - Recovery Plan for the US Pacific Populations of the Hawksbill Turtle
Recovery_Plan_for_the_US_Pacific_Populations_of_the_Loggerhead.pdf - Recovery Plan for the US Pacific Populations of the Loggerhead
Recovery_Plan_for_the_US_Pacific_Populations_of_the_Olive_Ridley_Sea_Turtle.pdf - Recovery Plan for the US Pacific Populations of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtl
US_Atlantic_Green_Turtle_Recovery_Plan.pdf - US Atlantic Green Turtle Recovery Plan US_Pacific_Green_turtle_Recovery_Plan.pdf - US Pacific Green turtle Recovery Plan

1.2 Does your country have policies and programs at local and regional scales in accordance with Article XVIII?
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ In Progress

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

State Protection : Florida - The Endangered Species Act (Act) is the implementing legislation for the IAC. Under this Act, we carry out programs for the protection and conservation of sea turtles and their habitats. Sea turtles are also protected by state laws and in some cases local ordinances.
State Protection: Georgia
Sea Turtle Protection: South Carolina Sea Turtle Protection: North Carolina: Sea Turtle Protection: Virginia
Sea Turtle Protection: Puerto Rico

1.3 Does your country have monitoring programs in accordance with Article IX?
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ In Progress

2) National legislation and international instruments related to sea turtles adopted during the preceding year

Describe any national regulations, international agreements and other legal instruments related to sea turtles and/or relevant activities that were adopted during the preceding year (**30 April 2019 – 30 April 2020**).
Please provide a literature reference and attach the digital file for the legislation and its corresponding number. The laws adopting the international legislation should be included when they exist.
First time a country is submitting this information: please include all pertinent national legislation and international instruments currently in force.
Countries that have previously submitted this information; please provide information for any changes that have occurred since your country's last report submission.

National Legislation

	Type and name of the legal instrument (No.)	Description (Range of application)	Sanctions(s) Imposed
	Final Rule to Require Turtle Excluder Device Use for all Skimmer Trawl Vessels 40 Feet and Greater in Length (50 CFR Parts 223)	This final rule is effective on April 1, 2021	no
	NOAA Fisheries Annual Determination (83 FR 63483)	Annual Determination	no

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

NOAA Fisheries Annual Determination (83 FR 63483) - Through an Annual Determination (AD), pursuant to its authority under the Endangered Species Act, NOAA Fisheries identifies U.S. fisheries operating in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Ocean that will be required to take observers upon NOAA Fisheries' request. The purpose of observing identified fisheries is to learn more about sea turtle interactions in a given fishery, evaluate measures to prevent or reduce sea turtle takes, and implement the prohibition against sea turtle takes. In the 2019 AD, NOAA Fisheries did not identify additional fisheries to observe. The fisheries required to carry observers upon NOAA Fisheries' request include: Trawl Fisheries (Southeastern US Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl and mixed species trawl); Gillnet Fisheries (California halibut, white seabass and other species gillnet (>3.5 in mesh), California yellowtail, barracuda, and while seabass drift gillnet (mesh size .3.5 in. and 14 in., Chesapeake Bay inshore gillnet, Long Island inshore gillnet, North Carolina inshore gillnet, Gulf of Mexico gillnet, Mid-Atlantic gillnet); Trap/pot Fisheries Atlantic blue crab and mixed species trap/pot, Northeast/Mod-Atlantic

American lobster trap/pot); and Pound Net/Weir/Seine Fisheries (Mid-Atlantic haul/beach seine and menhaden purse, Rhode Island floating trap, and Gulf of Mexico menhaden purse seine).

Final Rule to Require Turtle Excluder Device Use for all Skimmer Trawl Vessels 40 Feet and Greater in Length (50 CFR Parts 223) - NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule to amend the alternative tow time restriction to require all skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length to use TEDs designed to exclude small sea turtles in their nets. The purpose of this rule is to reduce incidental bycatch and mortality of sea turtles in the southeastern U.S. shrimp fisheries, and to aid in the protection and recovery of listed sea turtle populations. Existing tow time requirements remain for pusher- head trawls, wing nets, and smaller skimmer trawl vessels. For vessels using pusherhead trawls or wing nets, vessels less than 40 feet in length using skimmer trawls, or vessels considered as live bait shrimpers operating under the allowable tow time exemption, the net is required to be emptied of catch on the deck within the specified time.

http://

International Instruments

	Treaty, Convention, Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding	Year signed and/or ratified
	Indian Ocean Southeast Asian Marine Turtle MOU	2001
	InterAmerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles	2000

3) Actions to comply with National and International Mandate

List actions that are being carried out to comply with national and international mandates

(Ex: inspections, confiscations, sanctions, etc.)
› Endangered Species Act: Prohibition of take of listed species unless exempted under Section 7 and Section 10 in U.S. waters

4) Efforts to increase IAC membership

4.1 Has your country encouraged non-member states to join the IAC?
Please select only one option
☐ Yes (list countries below)

›
☑ No

4.2 Has your country reached out to Canada, Guyana, French Guiana, Trinidad & Tobago, and/or Suriname to inform these nations about the critical situation of the population and priority actions for the conservation of leatherbacks in the NW Atlantic?

Please select only one option
☑ Yes (list countries below)

› We have reached out to French Guiana regarding pilot testing of a gill net fishery method to reduce bycatch of leatherbacks.
☐ No

5) Application [submission] of exceptions

Application [submission] of exceptions established in the Convention

Describe the exceptions allowed in accordance with article IV, item 3(a,b,d) and Annex IV of the text of the Convention, in accordance to the procedure established by the COP (CIT-COP5-2011-R2).
Attach management plan and five-year progress report as indicated in Resolution CIT-COP6-2013-R1/CIT-COP7-2015-R1 using the blue icons below.

External supporting documents
CIT-COP5-2011-R2 (PDF)
CIT-COP6-2013-R1 (PDF)
CIT-COP7-2015-R1 (PDF)
› No exceptions

Part III Compliance with IAC Resolutions

1) Sea Turtle Species Presence

1.1 Sea Turtle Species Present in the Country

Check the box if the species listed is present in the oceanographic basins of your country as established in Article III of the text of the Convention.

	Caribbean Sea	Atlantic Ocean	Pacific Ocean
Lepidochelys olivacea	☐	☑	☑
Lepidochelys kempii	☐	☑	☐
Dermochelys coriacea	☐	☑	☑
Eretmochelys imbricata	☐	☑	☑
Chelonia mydas	☐	☑	☑
Caretta caretta	☐	☑	☑

2) IAC Resolutions

2.1 The following resolutions apply to this country

☑ Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle Resolution
☑ Hawksbill Resolution
☑ Loggerhead Resolution
☑ Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Resolution
☑ Fisheries Resolution

3. Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R2 - Eastern Pacific Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)

1. Has your country created conservation plans and/or long-term programs that can reverse the critical situation of the leatherback turtle in the Eastern Pacific?

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

We have a recovery plan for Pacific leatherbacks that includes Eastern Pacific leatherbacks. Further, we launched in 2016 the Species in the Spotlight initiative that highlights East Pacific Leatherbacks. NOAA Fisheries released our five-year action plan for Western and Eastern Pacific leatherbacks. The plan and updates on our implementation can be found at the following weblink: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/leatherback-turtle#spotlight.

2. Are you implementing the country EP leatherback conservation plans?

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States is taking action to minimize interactions with leatherbacks in domestic fisheries by using gear modifications and, as necessary, time area closures. In addition, we are working closely with several countries in the Eastern Pacific Ocean to try and reduce leatherback interactions trialing illuminated gillnets in coastal fisheries (e.g., Peru and Chile).

3. Have you taken conservation measures to eliminate poaching of leatherback turtles?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Trade of sea turtles and their parts is illegal in the United States. The United States has also taken a very proactive approach to address wildlife trafficking for all species through the creation of a cross-agency task force to look at wildlife trafficking.

Recently, this task force was authorized through the END Wildlife Trafficking Act.

The FWS Office of Law Enforcement (FWS/OLE) has seized shipments containing sea turtle parts or products (including Dermochelydae) since January 2018.

4. If your country has leatherback turtle nesting beaches in the Eastern Pacific: Have you taken conservation measures to protect the nests and nesting habitat?

Please select only one option

☐ Yes

☐ No

☑ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Not applicable

5. Has your country adopted fishing techniques that reduce incidental capture and mortality of this species?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

With respect to Western Pacific Leatherbacks, the United States has taken significant measures to reduce fishery bycatch. The Hawaii shallow-set fishery is managed through 100% observer monitoring and the fishery closes if the annual limit of interaction with leatherbacks is reached. U.S. fishermen are required to use large 18/0 circle hooks with whole finfish baits in longline fisheries known to interact with leatherbacks in the Pacific and the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the Gulf of Mexico. Fishers are also provided safe-handling gear to increase turtles' chances of survival post-release. The United States has also declared Critical Habitat for leatherback turtles along the U.S. West Coast that can help to further limit anthropogenic impacts to leatherback turtles in the region.

The U.S. fleet rarely interacts with Eastern Pacific leatherbacks since they do not often fish in their geographic range.

4. Resolution CIT-COP8-2017-R2 - Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata)

1. Is your country strengthening monitoring of the illegal use and trade of hawksbill turtles and their products?
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Trade of sea turtles and their parts is illegal in the United States. The United States has also taken a very proactive approach to address wildlife trafficking for all species through the creation of a cross-agency task force to look at wildlife trafficking. Recently, this task force was authorized through the END Wildlife Trafficking Act.

The FWS Office of Law Enforcement (FWS/OLE) has seized over two hundred shipments containing sea turtle parts or products since 2018. These shipments were in-transit through the United States to Asia, originating from Pacific Islands and Central America. The majority of the seizures (86%) were shell products, carapaces, jewelry, and meat. The remaining 14% of the seizures reported for the period were sea turtle eggs, leather products, bodies (bones or skull mounts) and medicinals.

The United States continues to practice best methods to share information with relevant authorities.

2. Is your country enforcing pertinent hawksbill legislation?

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Enforcement efforts at the state and national level are ongoing to enforce the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

3. Are activities being carried out in your country to stop the illegal trade of hawksbill products?
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

U.S. enforcement officers work to stop illegal trade of hawksbill products.NOAA OLE participates in joint enforcement inspections and investigations targeting the illegal trade of protected marine products alongside FWS, U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security Investigations, the Food and Drug Administration, and state enforcement partners.

NOAA OLE and FWS continue to provide counter-wildlife trafficking law enforcement expertise during numerous bi- and multi-lateral international engagements.

4. Indicate if your country is strengthening the protection of important nesting and foraging habitats by declaring protected areas and regulating anthropogenic activities that adversely impact these habitats

4a. Protection of nesting habitats
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Nesting beaches of the southeastern U.S. are a mixture of public and private lands. Public conservation lands include National Wildlife Refuges (NWR), National or State or County Parks, and military installations. In Florida, approximately 40% of nesting beaches have been identified as conservation lands.

The two major hawksbill nesting beaches in the U.S. Caribbean, Buck Island Reef National Monument, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Mona Island, Puerto Rico, are protected as a National Park and Commonwealth Protected Area, respectively.

4b. Protection of feeding habitats

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Critical habitat has been designated for Caribbean hawksbill around Mona Island (Puerto Rico) since 1998.
https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1998-09-02/pdf/98-23533.pdf

5. Resolution CIT-COP7-2015-R3: Resolution on the Conservation of the Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

1. Has your country created national action plans and/or monitoring programs to promote loggerhead sea turtle conservation?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States has recovery plans for the Northwest Atlantic loggerheads and Pacific loggerheads . NMFS and USFWS reconvened the NW Atlantic Loggerhead Recovery Team to review progress toward recovery: https://www.fws.gov/northflorida/SeaTurtles/Docs/FINAL_NW_Atl_CC_Loggerhead_Recovery_Team_Progress_R eport_12-19-19.pdf.

The NMFS and USFWS completed a five-year review of the North Pacific loggerhead to assess the status and threats to the population: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/north-pacific-ocean-distinct- population-segment-loggerhead-sea-turtle-5-year

2. State if there are plans or recovery programs, or bilateral or regional cooperation in your country.

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The existing recovery plans can be found at the links below. They are national plans.
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-northwest-atlantic-population-loggerhead- sea-turtle-caretta
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/recovery-plan-us-pacific-populations-loggerhead-turtle- caretta-caretta

3. Are these action plans or monitoring programs being implemented?

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States is actively implementing its recovery plans. Monitoring programs are a key component of our recovery plans. The recovery plan progress can be tracked at https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?sId=1110

4. Is there protection of the loggerhead turtle at a state or federal level?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

There are protections at the State and Federal levels.

5. Has your country taken conservation actions to protect nesting beaches and their associated habitats?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

› Through state and Federal laws, the United States has worked to protect Northwest Atlantic loggerhead nesting beaches. The United States does not have nesting beaches for North Pacific loggerheads.

6. Are there laws on turtle-friendly lighting in areas impacted by coastal development?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

› There are local lighting ordinances that require turtle-friendly lighting in coastal areas adjacent to where loggerheads nest.

7. Is there long-term (minimum 10 years) standardized data available for population trend studies?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

› There is extensive data on NW Atlantic loggerheads. The NMFS and the USFWS reconvened the NW Atlantic Loggerhead Recovery Team to access trends.
Trends analyzed included datasets with over 20 years of nesting data 1997-2018):
https://www.fws.gov/northflorida/SeaTurtles/Docs/FINAL_NW_Atl_CC_Loggerhead_Recovery_Team_Progress_R eport_12-19-19.pdf

8. Is there exploitation or direct harvest of loggerhead turtles in your country?

Please select only one option

☐ Yes
☑ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

› It is illegal under the U.S. Endangered Species Act to take, kill, harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect a listed species.

6. Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2 - Northwest Atlantic Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea)

1. Has your country implemented techniques to reduce leatherback bycatch and mortality in fisheries, following the UN-FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States has implemented various requirements to reduce sea turtle bycatch and to reduce injuries when turtles are bycaught. Bycatch reduction measures and safe handling requirements have been implemented in U.S. pelagic longline fisheries in the Atlantic and Pacific and in certain bottom longline fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Bycatch reduction measures are also mandatory in certain federally managed gillnet fisheries including the mid-Atlantic and the California drift gillnet fishery. The United States requires Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in shrimp otter trawls, summer flounder trawls in certain areas, and skimmer trawls (40 feet and greater, beginning in 2021). Certain pound net fisheries and scallop dredge fisheries are also regulated to reduce sea turtle interactions and the severity of injuries if bycaught. The United States also works to transfer turtle “safe” handling practices to increase post-release survivorship and mitigation technologies to international pelagic and coastal fisheries through engagement in the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (e.g., ICCAT, IATTC, WCPFC) and through collaborative fishery mitigation and research projects.

2. Does your country have fishery observer programs that comply with the minimum standards for scientific observer coverage that have been established by pertinent Regional Fishery Management Organizations?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The NMFS has a National Observer Program that is composed of six regional observer programs. Each of the programs can be found at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/fishery-observers#observer-programs.

Through an Annual Determination, pursuant to its authority under the ESA, NOAA Fisheries identifies U.S. fisheries operating in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Ocean that will be required to take observers upon NOAA Fisheries' request. The purpose of observing identified fisheries is to learn more about sea turtle interactions in a given fishery, evaluate measures to prevent or reduce sea turtle takes, and implement the prohibition against sea turtle takes.

3. Has your country implemented laws and regulations related to Northwest Atlantic leatherback conservation, particularly related to fisheries bycatch and marine protected areas?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States has a robust program to research bycatch reduction technologies. There are currently sea turtle bycatch reduction technologies in place in the longline fisheries and some gillnet fisheries. A summary of some of the recent bycatch reduction projects that were funded can be found at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/bycatch/bycatch-reduction-engineering-program.

4. Has your country implemented conservation measures for the protection of the NWA leatherback nesting beaches and associated habitats?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

☐ No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Approximately 40% of nesting beaches in Florida have been identified as conservation lands. The major leatherback nesting beach in the U.S. Virgin Islands, is protected as a National Wildlife Refuge. In Puerto Rico 2 leatherback nesting beaches (Vieques NWR and Culebra NWR) are protected as National Wildlife Refuges 3 leatherback beaches (Luquillo, Dorado, and Maunabo) are protected as DNER Natural Reserves

5. Does your country have a monitoring and tagging program at the NWA leatherback nesting beaches?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

☐ No nesting beaches in the country

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

All leatherback nesting beaches in Florida and Puerto Rico are consistently monitored. Sandy Point in St. Croix, USVI, is also monitored consistently. Nesting turtles are tagged on two high-density beaches in Florida, three mainland beaches in Puerto Rico, and at Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge in the US Virgin Islands.

6. Is your country collecting data on interactions of the NWA leatherback with fishing fleets? If YES, please report data of interactions of the species with industrial longline vessels in Part VI of this report.

Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

7. Resolution CIT-COP3-2006-R2 – Reduce impacts of fisheries on sea turtles

Relating to if your country has adopted the 'Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality induced by fisheries operations', of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) including:

A. Research and monitoring of the adverse impact of fisheries on sea turtles

1. Does your country collect information by fishery?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States engages with the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (e.g., ICCAT, IATTC, WCPFC) to collect information by fishery.

2. Does your country have observer programs?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The NMFS has a National Observer Program that is composed of six regional observer programs. Each of the programs can be found at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/fishery-observers#observer-programs.

Through an Annual Determination, pursuant to its authority under the ESA, NOAA Fisheries identifies U.S. fisheries operating in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific Ocean that will be required to take observers upon NOAA Fisheries' request. The purpose of observing identified fisheries is to learn more about sea turtle interactions in a given fishery, evaluate measures to prevent or reduce sea turtle takes, and implement the prohibition against sea turtle takes.

Through the information provided by the observer programs, the NMFS implements regulations to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality in fisheries. Further, the United States evaluates all Federal actions that may affect sea turtles through the Section 7 process of the ESA, as well as the environmental review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

3. Does your country do research on sea turtle/fishery interactions?

Please select only one option

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States has a robust program to research bycatch reduction technologies. There are currently sea turtle bycatch reduction technologies in place in the longline fisheries, shrimp otter trawl fisheries and some gillnet fisheries. A summary of some of the recent bycatch reduction projects that were funded can be found at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/bycatch/bycatch-reduction-engineering-program.

4. Does your country have information on non-Party vessels and interactions with sea turtles?

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States works through the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations to monitor non-Party vessels. More information on this work can be found at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foreign/bycatch/international-protected-species-and-bycatch-mitigation

5. Does your country cooperate with non-party states to obtain information on interactions with sea turtles?

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States works collaboratively with several countries to better understand fisheries interactions with sea turtles. More information on our annual efforts can be found in the following report to the U.S. Congress-- https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/foreign/bycatch/international-protected-species-and-bycatch- mitigation#more-information

B. Mitigation measures

6. Does your country implement mitigation measures in long-line fisheries?

If the answer is **NO** please justify
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States has sea turtle bycatch mitigation restrictions in all Federal pelagic and deep-set longline fisheries. These regulations for the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans regulations can be found at: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/revised-limits-sea-turtle-interactions-hawaii-shallow-set-longline-fishery https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-pelagic-longline-final-rule

7. Does your country implement mitigation measures in gillnets fisheries?

If the answer is **NO** please justify

Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

The United States has sea turtle bycatch mitigation requirements in many Federally managed gillnet fisheries including the Mid-Atlantic and the California Drift gillnet. Some states have adopted bycatch mitigation reduction requirements in their state fisheries in order to compile with the Endangered Species Act as well. More information on these requirements can be found at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/california-and-oregon-drift-gillnet-final-rule

https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-permit-north-carolina-division-marine-fisheries-sea- turtles
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/virginia-and-north-carolina-large-mesh-gillnet-final-rule

8. Does your country implement mitigation measures in trawl fisheries (e.g. TEDs)?

If the answer is **NO** please justify
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

TEDs: specify legally approved TEDs, their dimensions, material, and target species for that fishery, 2. time-area closures: specify a geographical area, time of closure and target species for that fishery, 3. tow times and/or 4. other measures; or attach any relevant documents

The United States requires TEDs in shrimp otter trawls and summer flounder trawls in certain areas. The specifications of the TEDs can be found at the website below, along with the specification geographic area required to use TEDs.
https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/05/21/2012-12014/sea-turtle-conservation-shrimp-and-summer- flounder-trawling-requirements

NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule to amend the alternative tow time restriction to require all skimmer trawl vessels 40 feet and greater in length to use TEDs designed to exclude small sea turtles in their nets. Existing tow time requirements remain for pusher-head trawls, wing nets, and smaller skimmer trawl vessels. For vessels using pusherhead trawls or wing nets, vessels less than 40 feet in length using skimmer trawls, or vessels considered as live bait shrimpers operating under the allowable tow time exemption, the net is required to be emptied of catch on the deck within the specified time.

9. Does your country implement mitigation measure in other fishing gears?

If the answer is **NO** please justify
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ Does not apply

If yes, please indicate which fishing gears

Poundnets and some dredges are also regulated to reduce sea turtle interactions. Please see
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-virginia-pound-net-regulations

10. List the fisher training programs about best practices for safe handling and release of incidentally- caught sea turtles carried out by your country during the last year

Fishermen operating in the pelagic longline fisheries in the Atlantic or the Pacific must take captains training on safe-handling and release techniques. More information can be found at https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/atlantic-highly-migratory-species/safe-handling-release-and-identification- workshops
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/commercial-fishing/pacific-islands-protected-species-workshops

C. Socio-economic considerations

11. Does your country support socio-economic activities that help mitigate adverse impacts of fisheries on sea turtles?
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No
☐ Does not apply

Please list the most relevant actions of the year (500 words)

List the activities, workshops, research, publications, or any other relevant material related to your response. Attach supporting documents, if required.

Part IV – Research Information

Indicate threats (Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination and pathogens, and climate change) by species

1) Threats

1.1 Indicate threats

Indicate threats **(Coastal development, incidental capture, direct use, contamination and pathogens, and climate change)** by species

Lo = *Lepidochelys olivacea*
Lk = *Lepidochelys kempii*
Dc = *Dermochelys coriacea*
Ei = *Eretmochelys imbricata*
Cc = *Caretta caretta*
Cm = *Chelonia mydas*

	Cm	Cc	Ei	Dc	Lk	Lo
Climate Change	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐
Pathogens	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Contamination	☑	☑	☐	☐	☑	☐
Direct Use	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Incidental Capture	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Coastal development	☑	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐

2) Indicate the mitigation actions that apply for each species

2.1 Habitat loss mitigation actions (i.e. coastal development, pollution, climate change)

	Cm	Cc	Ei	Dc	Lk	Lo
Permits required for recreational activities near nesting sites	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Beach Cleanups	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Predator's removal/control	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Establishment of Marine Protected Areas	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐
Use of sea turtle friendly lighting	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Lighting regulations in place	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Permits required for construction near nesting sites	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Permits required for scientific research on feeding/nesting grounds	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐

2.2 Bycatch mitigation actions (i.e. Incidental Capture)

	Cm	Cc	Ei	Dc	Lk	Lo
Sea Turtle Excluder Devices	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Nets illumination	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Trawling is banned	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Nets are banned	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Use of circle hooks	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Observers program	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Fishers trained on sea turtle safe handling and release	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Marking of fishing gear in commercial vessels	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Vessel monitoring using VMS	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Research on new fishing gear technology	☑	☑	☐	☑	☑	☐
Time/space closures	☐	☑	☐	☑	☐	☐

2.3 Direct use mitigation actions

	Cm	Cc	Ei	Dc	Lk	Lo
Nests relocation	☑	☑	☐	☑	☑	☐
Night Patrols	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐
Day Patrols	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Flipper Tagging	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Satellite Tracking	☐	☐	☑	☑	☑	☐
Poaching regulations in place	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Environmental education for local communities	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Seizure of sea turtle products	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Livelihood alternatives for local communities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Permits required for scientific research	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑
Exception management plan (if applies)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3) Research

3.1 Types of research

Please fill out the following table on the types of research being carried out in the country related to each species.

	Cm	Cc	Ei	Dc	Lk	Lo
Tagging	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Migration	☐	☐	☐	☑	☐	☐
Genetics	☑	☑	☑	☐	☐	☐
Habitat monitoring	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Fisheries interactions	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☐
Disease	☑	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3.2 Describe scientific research

In addition to the above, please describe scientific research that is being carried out in the country relating to sea turtle population assessments including tagging, migration, and genetic studies, as well as those relating to conservation issues including habitat monitoring, fisheries interactions, disease, etc.
Provide a list of references for the information used in this report and note how to obtain them when needed.

Satellite telemetry is ongoing for leatherback turtles in Florida, US Virgin Islands, and California; for hawksbills in Hawaii and the US Virgin Islands; for green turtles in California, Florida, and Hawaii; for Kemp's ridleys in Texas, Mississippi and the New England. Two olive ridley turtles that stranded in Florida were satellite tagged. These studies continue to refine migratory corridors, internesting distances, and post nesting movements, as well as foraging areas.

Tissue samples are collected for Kemp's ridleys, leatherbacks, loggerheads, hawksbills, and green turtles. These studies include stable isotope analysis, nests/adult linkages, and genetics.

Flipper and PIT tagging is done of loggerheads, greens, Kemp's ridley, leatherbacks, and hawksbills.

4) Other activities

4.1 Other activities

Include a 500 words summary of information on environmental education activities, programs to establish and manage protected areas, and cooperative activities with other Party countries.
Please attach any other relevant documents using the blue boxes below.

In FY 2019, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) awarded projects through the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. These projects are within the IAC area and listed below
:
1. Conservation of the leatherback turtle nesting populations in Espirito Santo, Brazil. In partnership with Fundacao Centro Brasileiro de Prot e Pesq das T Marinha. This project will conduct a conservation program for the SW Atlantic Ocean leatherback nesting population that nests only in Brazil. This is the smallest genetically and demographically distinct leatherback population in the world with fewer than 20 females nesting each year. The intent of this project is to build capacity and knowledge in support of the establishment of a Marine Protected Area to protect this population from fisheries bycatch mortality and to build capacity for nesting beach monitoring and protection. Activities include: 1) characterize fisheries and fishing activities; 2) analyze fisheries and leatherback satellite tracking data to determine interaction zones in support of the MPA; 3) conduct training of field monitors to improve capacity for data collection and nest protection; and 4) conduct outreach and education activities including night patrols on nesting beaches with local community members.

2. Increasing hawksbill nesting beach productivity and reducing bycatch from lobster gillnets in El Salvador. In partnership with Asociacion ProCosta. This project will continue hawksbill conservation programs at nesting beaches in Bahia de Jiquilisco Biosphere Reserve (Bahia), El Salvador and on foraging grounds in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting females from poaching and also to work with local fisherman to reduce hawksbill bycatch from lobster fisheries. The small Eastern Pacific hawksbill nesting population was thought to have been extirpated until remnant populations were discovered in remote sites until 2008. Bahia de Jiquilisco accounts for about 40 % of all hawksbill nesting in the East Pacific. Specific activities include: 1) conduct community based patrols and relocation of nests to hatcheries;
2) conduct outreach activities such as a Hawksbill Festival, Hawksbill Cup competition and “Day of the Hawksbill” events in schools to raise awareness about threats to hawksbills; 3) conduct year round fisheries bycatch monitoring of lobster fisheries with on board observers; 4) conduct LED light trials on lobster nets to determine deterrence effectiveness; and 5) develop local capacity to strengthen a hawksbill ecotourism program for the benefit of local residents.

3. Population recovery of leatherback sea turtle (dermochelys coriacea) in Michoacán. In partnership with Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolas de Hidalgo. This project will implement a conservation program for the East Pacific leatherback nesting population. This population was the world's largest in the 1980's but due to killing of nesting females, overharvest of eggs and accidental capture in gill net and longline fisheries it has been reduced to less than 1,000 nests each year in Mexico. Mexico historically accounted for 90 percent of the East Pacific nesting population. The intent of this project is to implement a nesting beach conservation program on two key nesting beaches in Mexico to protect nests. Activities include: 1) patrolling Mexiquillo and Las Placitas nesting beaches at night throughout the nesting season to deter poaching and count nests to monitor nesting trends; and 2) relocate nests threatened by poaching and tidal inundation to secure beach hatcheries.

4. In partnership with University of Alabama at Birmingham. This project will support the Mexico-US Binational Kemp's Ridley conservation project in Mexico. The intent of this project is to assess nesting beach management practices, predator threats to nests to inform and improve management practices and enhance population recovery. Activities include: 1) assess sex ratios in hatchery and in situ nests; 2) assess hatching fitness from hatchery and in situ nests; 3) assess arribada nesting events using drones; and 4) assess predator threats to in situ nests.

5. In partnership with Ecolibrium Inc. This project will strengthen East Pacific (EP) leatherback conservation efforts throughout its range (Mexico to Chile). The EP leatherback nests in Mexico, Costa Rica and Nicaragua and migrates and forages along the East Pacific from Mexico south to Chile. EP leatherback nesting population once the largest nesting population in the world, with over 150,000 nest estimated in the early 1980's, has plummeted to fewer than 1,500 nests annually. The intent of this project is to support the EP leatherback conservation network (Laud OPO) to improve nesting beach and bycatch reduction projects and to provide scientific expertise to support the Secretariat of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) in meetings with government decision makers to address bycatch reduction measures. Activities include: 1) maintain regional database, website and online library of best management practices for Laud OOP; 2) facilitate alignment of IAC leatherback taskforce priorities with Laud OPO; 3) accompany IAC Secretariat as technical expert to meetings with high level government officials and International Fisheries bodies to address leatherback fisheries bycatch; and 4) coordinate one Laud OPO workshop annually to review ongoing projects and activities and consult about problems, needs, and successful means to further recovery efforts.

6. In partnership with World Wildlife Fund, Inc. This project will support and expand East Pacific leatherback conservation efforts in Colombia and Panama. The intent is to build capacity for a community based leatherback nesting beach conservation project with remote communities in the Darien Gap of Colombia and Panama. Activities include: 1) conduct training workshops for local community monitoring teams; 2) lead patrols to quantify and protect leatherback nesting acitivities on key nesting beaches of Gato beach (Panama) and Jurado beach (Colombia); and 3) facilitate bi-National collaboration through meetings with NGOs and governmental institutions with both countries.

7. In partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. This project will support the implementation of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention with 15 member Parties including the U.S. The intent is to promote regional collaboration and cooperation of sea turtle conservation within the Western Hemisphere. Activities include: 1) convening of Conference of the Parties, Scientific and Consultative Committees and support for associated travel and translation expenses; 2) travel support to meet with high level governmental decision makers in range state countries of the highly endangered East Pacific leatherback sea turtle to discuss measures to minimize accidental capture of leatherbacks in artisanal and industrial fisheries; and 3) travel support for Secretariat to meet with high level governmental decision makers in Western Hemisphere countries to foster new country membership.

8. Conserving hawksbill sea turtles and their beach habitats in Barbados. In partnership with University of West Indies. This project will conduct all night patrols on the national index nesting beach and other high density nesting beaches for hawksbills June 1-November 30 and once nightly patrols on all other high density hawksbill to collect nesting data and protect nesting females.

9. Strengthening long-term sea turtle conservation programs in the Yucatan Peninsula to improve adaptive management and decision making. In partnership with Pronatura. This project will conduct night patrols to survey and protect nesting sea turtles from April 1 - September 30 along 81 km of nesting beaches at Celestun, El Cuyo and Holbox as well as outreach and eduaction activities with local communities.

10. Conservation of the Japanese-nesting loggerhead turtle: mortality assessment and conservation outreach at the BCS Mexico juvenile foraging area. In partnership with Grupo Tortuguero de las Californias, A.C. This project will support conservation efforts in the Baja California to protect a critical foraging loggerhead population. This project supports beach surveys along 43 km of Baja Mexico which serves as an index site to monitor accidental bycatch mortality in fisheries operating in the Pacific Baja on this critical loggerhad foraging grounds for the Japanese loggerhead nesting population. The data from these surveys are critical to infoming management decsions of Baja fisheries that interact with loggerheads on the foraging grounds. The U.S./Mexico/Japan are currently working together on a recovey plan for this population and this project has been identified as a high priority for overall conservation of this population.

11. Conservation of Hawksbill Turtles Along the Southeast Coast of Nicaragua. In partnership with Cynthia Jean Lageux. This project will conduct a community based sea turtle conservation project along 36 km of hawksbill nesting beach between the mouths of the Karaslaya and Indio/San Juan rivers which hosts some of the most important hawksbill nesting in Caribbean Nicaragua. The intent of this project is to protect nests and nesting turtles from poaching. Activities include: 1) training local community members to conduct twice weekly surveys during May through October along 36 km of nesting beach to count nests and deter poaching; 2) conduct a seven day field and classroom Sea Turtle Course for four upper class students and a faculty member from Blue Fields Indian and Caribbean University; 3) conduct outreach, education and awareness activities with educational, municipal and communal authorities and local communities.

12. Conserving Critically Endangered Leatherback and Hawksbill Marine Turtles on Nicaragua's Pacific Coast. In partnership with Fauna & Flora International. This project will monitor and protect leatherback and hawksbill nesting populations through community protection strategies at Asseradores, Veracruz, Salamina, and Estero Padre Ramos, strengthen coastal management and protection of nesting sites at Salamina, Veracruz, and Estero Padre Ramos by raising awareness of policy makers and local stakeholders and by implementing a National Sea Turtle Campaign at the nesting beaches, and develop a conservation tourism program at Estero Padre Ramos. The recipient will conduct rapid bycatch assessments at five priority sites along the Nicaraguan Pacific coast and promote the use of low-impact fishing methods.

13. Consolidating Sea Turtle conservation in the Azores 4 (COSTA 4). In partnership with Instituto do Mar. This project will collaborate with fisherman and the Azores Regional Directorate of Marine Affairs to protect and recover the NW Atlantic loggerhead nesting population. This nesting population is the largest loggerhead population in the world and nests primarily in the SE U.S with lesser nesting in Mexico, Bahamas, and Cuba. Hatchlings from nesting beaches passively migrate to the Eastern Atlantic on the Florida current where they spend several years as juveniles before migrating by to NW Atlantic coastal waters. The Azores is a particularly important foraging grounds for juvenile loggerheads where they interact with long line fisheries operations and experience accidental capture causing injury and mortality. The intent of this project is to reduce mortality of loggerheads from LL fisheries. Activities include: 1) placing two observers on LL fishing vessels for 12 months to collect additional bycatch data; 2) analyze these data and previously collected bycatch data to identify critical interaction zones; 3) restructure the turtle tagging activities in cooperation with local partners and expand tagging program with new partners; and 4) promote best practices for safe handling and release of accidentally captured turtles by LL fisherman through training workshops and brochures.

14. Hawksbill and Leatherback Turtle Research and Population Recovery in Panama. In partnership with Sea Turtle Conservancy. This project will conduct intensive monitoring and protection of hawksbill and leatherback nesting beaches at six sites in Bocas del Toro Province using standardized protocols and with local community monitors; the recipient will also conduct community environmental outreach activities and work with communities to resolve dog nest depredation problems.

Part V – Nesting Information

Index nesting sites or beaches for sea turtle conservation

Use the following drop down menu to select the index sites which you would like to report information for the latest season corresponding to the year of this report

Index Nesting Sites USA
Culebra Island; Puerto Rico

Culebra Island; Puerto Rico: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region

☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.

☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.

☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.

☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.

☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 18.332

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -65.289

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.

☐ FT

☐ ST

☐ PIT

☑ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
›

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On

a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.
›

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 2.25

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc	23			Daily	July 31	April 1	July 31	April 1
Ei								
Cc								
Cm								

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

Vieques Island; Puerto Rico

Vieques Island; Puerto Rico: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region

☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.

☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.

☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.

☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.

☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 18.157

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -65.365

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option

☑ Yes

☐ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.

☐ FT

☐ ST

☐ PIT

☑ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option

☐ Yes

☑ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
29.11

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc	116			Daily	July 31	April 1	July 31	April 1
Ei	78			Daily	December 10	August 8	November 30	April 1
Cc								
Cm	266			Daily	December 15	September 1	December 15	September 1

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

Mona Island; Puerto Rico

Mona Island; Puerto Rico: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region
☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 18.057

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -67.874

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☐ FT
☐ ST
☐ PIT
☑ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
›

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.
›

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 7.0

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc								
Ei	1,003			Daily	December 10	August 8	November 30	April 1
Cc								
Cm								

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

Buck Island National Mon

Buck Island National Mon: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region
☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 17.835

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -64.622

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☑ FT
☐ ST
☑ PIT
☐ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
› Information is collected on recaptured nesting turtles to determine internesting period.

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.
› Samples are collected for genetics.

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› National Park Service

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 1.5

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

Species	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequen cy	End of Monitoring	Start of Monitoring	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting
Lo								
Lk								
Dc								
Ei	80			Daily	November 9	July 23	November 30	April 1
Cc								
Cm	116			Daily	November 9	July 23	October 31	July 1

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

Sandy Point NWR; Virgin Islands

Sandy Point NWR; Virgin Islands: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region

☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 17.680

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -64.902

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☑ FT
☑ ST
☑ PIT
☐ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
› Tagging is conducted to track leatherback internesting areas and post nesting migration and foraging areas.

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.

› Samples are collected from hatched nests and nesting females to determine maternal/nest linkages.

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› US Fish and Wildlife Service

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 3.0

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc	69			Daily	July 31	March 15	July 31	March 1
Ei	50			Daily	December 10	March 15	November 30	April 1
Cc								
Cm	1590			Daily	December 10	June 1	November 30	June 1

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

Florida Index Beaches

Florida Index Beaches: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region
☑ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☑ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 28.000

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -80.524

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☑ FT
☑ ST
☑ PIT
☐ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
› Flipper tagging is conducted on a couple of beaches to determine inter-nesting periods and recapture data.

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.
› On some beaches for genetics, stable isotopes, and maternal linkages.

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 1327

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc	1,105			Daily	July 31	March 1	July 31	March 1
Ei								
Cc	106,656			Daily	August 31	May 1	August 31	May 1
Cm	53,015			Daily	October 31	May 1	October 31	May 1

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

South Padre Island; Texas

South Padre Island; Texas: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region

☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 27.304

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -97.340

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☑ FT
☐ ST
☑ PIT
☐ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
› Nesting female identification and recapture rates

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or

stable isotope) in the box below.
› Stable isotopes

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› National Park Service

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 112.6

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk	118			Daily	July 15	April 1	June 16	April 1
Dc								
Ei								
Cc								
Cm								

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring.

Hawaii

Hawaii: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region

☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☑ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☐ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 19.270

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -155.255

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☑ FT
☑ ST
☑ PIT
☐ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
› Recapture of nesting females and post nesting migration

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.

› Genetics

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› NMFS

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 14.4

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc								
Ei	49			Daily (on some beaches)	October 31	May 1	December 12	April 28
Cc								
Cm								

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› Surveys only on Hawaii Island and Maui

French Frigate; Shoals (HI)

French Frigate; Shoals (HI): Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region
☑ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☐ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 23.86

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -166.28

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being one: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☑ FT
☑ ST
☑ PIT
☐ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
› Internesting, recapture, migration, and foraging areas.

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.

› Stable isotopes

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› NMFS

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 2.5

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc								
Ei								
Cc								
Cm	519			Daily	August 19	May 18	November 30	March 1

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› Surveyed Tern Island. East Island, which was surveyed in previous years, is now underwater.

Georgia

Georgia: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region
☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 31.082

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -81.402

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☑ FT
☐ ST
☑ PIT
☐ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
› Recapture and nesting female counts

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☑ Yes
☐ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.
› Egg shell samples to determine maternal linkages.

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› Georgia DNR

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 164

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc								
Ei								
Cc	3950			Daily	August 31	May 1	August 31	May 1
Cm								

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

North Carolina

North Carolina: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org

Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region

☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.

☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.

☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.

☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.

☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 34.693

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -76.833

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option

☐ Yes
☑ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.

☐ FT
☐ ST
☐ PIT
☑ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
›

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option

☐ Yes
☑ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.›

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 531

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.

Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period:

Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.

Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc								
Ei								
Cc	2293			daily	August 31	May 1	August 31	May 1
Cm								

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

South Carolina

South Carolina: Criteria for selection of this index beach/site

Select the guidelines used to identify this site as an index beach based on the IAC document CIT-CC10-2013-Tec.5 “Selecting Index Beaches in the IAC Region and Data Collection Guidelines”.
If your country requires to report a new index beach please send a request based on above guidelines to the IAC Secretariat Pro Tempore secretario@iacseaturtle.org
Guidelines for selecting index beaches/sites in the IAC Region
☐ This is a site where one of the species found in the country nests at any significant level.
☐ This site hosts a significant proportion of the overall nesting population within the region or the country, even if numbers are small.
☐ There is significant population structure (e.g. genetics, RMUs), that represent the various segments of the regional population.
☐ This site includes major nesting sites already under intensive study and long-term monitoring.
☑ This site remains consistent as index beach from year to year and receives sufficient resources to maintain adequate and consistent monitoring.

Index Nesting Site Information

Geographic Location: Latitude

Specify latitude in decimal degrees
› 31.427

Geographic Location: Longitude

Specify longitude in decimal degrees
› -81.246

Declared Protected Area

Indicate if the area is declared as some type of protected area
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No

Tagging Programs

Indicate if there have been any tagging activities at the nesting beach by using the letters of the type of tagging being done: flipper tagging (FT), passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging, and satellite telemetry (ST) programs.
☐ FT
☐ ST
☐ PIT
☑ None

Additional information on tagging programs (flipper and telemetry)

Please list the references available to the public with information on flipper tagging and telemetry in the box below. If required, on a separate sheet or as attached reference provide greater detail about the type of tagging efforts conducted. Also, provide satellite telemetry maps or flipper tag recovery information if available and indicate if this data is open for publication in our website or should stay confidential.
›

Tissue Sampling

Indicate if there has been tissue sampling conducted at this site. This includes skin, blood, and other body tissues. On a separate sheet, include a table describing: date, species, type of tissue collected, general purpose (genetics, contaminant, and/or stable isotope studies, etc) and reference or report if available to the public.
Please select only one option
☐ Yes
☑ No

Tissue Sampling – additional information

Please list the references available to the public with information on studies based on tissue sampling (genetics, contaminants and/or stable isotope) in the box below.
›

Organization or entity providing data

Indicate what organization or entity is providing the data
› South Carolina DNR

Extension of beach monitored (km)

Provide the total length (in kilometers) of the nesting beach.
› 303

Annual Nesting

Annual Nesting

This table is intended to report information on index nesting sites or beaches for each species.Nesting season: Indicate the starting and finishing date of the nesting season. Monitoring period: Indicate the starting and finishing date of monitoring efforts.
Survey frequency: Indicate the frequency with which the surveys are done (daily, weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, among others).

Season females/ nests/ clutch count: Provide information on the total number of females and/or nests/ clutches deposited at the nesting site or beach in real numbers. Provide the exact count of females based on tagged or uniquely identified individuals. If the exact number of clutches is unknown provide a total number of nests.

Please scroll to the right to see all questions >>>>

	Season Number of Nests	Season Clutches Exact Count	Season Females Exact Count	Survey Frequency	End of Monitoring Period	Start of Monitoring Period	End of Nesting Season	Start of Nesting Season
Lo								
Lk								
Dc								
Ei								
Cc	8781			Daily	August 31	May 1	August 31	May 1
Cm								

Please indicate if there were any circumstances that impacted monitoring (hurricanes, storms, other natural phenomenon, personnel availability, financial constraints, etc.)
› No circumstances impacted monitoring

Note from the Secretariat: Following number 7 of the Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R2 for the Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback requesting the information in Table 3 of this report (industrial longline fisheries information), sensitive information will be kept confidential. For additional information, the procedures defined in Resolution CIT-COP9-2019-R4 should be followed.